

CLAIMS

1-4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) A method of handling an incoming call for a wireless communications device, said method comprising:

receiving an incoming call at the wireless communications device over a control channel of a wireless communications system;

selecting, at the wireless communications device, one of a plurality of pre-recorded messages to play back to a caller of the incoming call, wherein the plurality of pre-recorded messages are stored at a voice message mailbox in the wireless communications system; and

transmitting to a base station an identification of the selected pre-recorded message to the wireless communications system over the control channel, the identification comprising a plurality of bits in a registration frame that identifies the selected pre-recorded message to be played back to the caller.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the selected pre-recorded message is selected manually by a user of the wireless communications device.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the manual selection is accomplished by depressing keys on a keypad included on the wireless communications device to identify the selected pre-recorded message.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
- identifying a source of the incoming call, wherein selection of the pre-recorded message is based on the identified source.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
- storing, in a phone book on the wireless communications device, one or more phone numbers associated with the plurality of pre-recorded messages;
 - identifying a phone number of a source of the incoming call;
 - comparing the identified phone number with the one or more phone numbers stored in the phone book; and
 - if the identified phone number matches one of the stored phone numbers, transmitting an identification of the pre-recorded message associated with the matched stored phone number to the wireless communications system on the control channel as the selected pre-recorded message.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of:
- if the identified phone number does not match any of the stored phone numbers, transmitting an identification of a default pre-recorded message to the wireless communications system on the control channel as the selected pre-recorded message.
12. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of:
- if the matched stored phone number does not have an associated pre-recorded message, transmitting an identification of a default pre-recorded message to the wireless communications system on the control channel as the selected pre-recorded message.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of handling an incoming call during an operational mode of a wireless communications device, said method comprising:

with the operational mode activated, receiving an incoming call at the wireless

communications device over a control channel of a wireless communications system;

identifying a source of the incoming call;

selecting, at the wireless communications device, one of a plurality of pre-recorded

messages to play back to the source of the incoming call based on the identified source,

wherein the plurality of pre-recorded messages stored at a voice message mailbox in the

wireless communications system; and

transmitting to a base station an identification of the selected pre-recorded message to the

wireless communications system over the control channel, the identification comprising a

plurality of bits in a registration frame that identifies the selected pre-recorded message

to be played back to the source of the incoming call; and

diverting the incoming call to the voice message mailbox of the wireless communications

device, wherein the selected pre-recorded message is played back for the source of the

incoming call.

14-15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 44 13, wherein selection of the selected pre-recorded message and transmission of the identification of the selected pre-recorded message are performed automatically by the wireless communications device upon receipt of the incoming call.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the selected pre-recorded message is selected manually by a user of the wireless communications device.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the manual selection is accomplished by depressing keys on a keypad included on the wireless communications device to identify the selected pre-recorded message.

19. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the identifying step includes activating caller ID circuitry in the wireless communications device to identify a phone number of the source of the incoming call.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 further comprising:
storing, in a phone book on the wireless communications device, one or more phone numbers associated with the plurality of pre-recorded messages;
comparing the identified phone number with the stored phone numbers in the phone book;
and
if the identified phone number matches one of the stored phone numbers, diverting the incoming call to the voice message mailbox of the wireless communications device, wherein the pre-recorded message associated with the matched stored phone number is played back for the source of the incoming call as the selected pre-recorded message.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of:
if the identified phone number does not match any of the stored phone numbers, diverting the incoming call to the voice message mailbox of the wireless communications device, wherein a default pre-recorded message is played back for the source of the incoming call as the selected pre-recorded message.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the operational mode of the wireless communications device comprises an unavailable mode in which a user of the wireless communications device is not receiving incoming calls, wherein the unavailable mode is activated automatically or manually by the user of the wireless communications device.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the plurality of pre-recorded messages stored at the voice message mailbox in the wireless communications system are recorded by a user of the mobile communications device.